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STAFFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1956

MAY, 1957

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
7, St. Mary's Grove,
Stafford.

May, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Stafford Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for 1956. The report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

In the Stafford Rural District in 1956 the Live Birth Rate was 15.0 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate 8.9, compared with respective figures of 15.7 and 11.7 for England and Wales. There were 290 live births in the R.D. in 1956 (165 M. and 125 F.) and the total number of deaths was 173, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 117. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 12, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 41.4 per 1,000 live births compared with 23.8 for England and Wales (the latter figure was the lowest ever recorded for England and Wales).

Ten cases of Measles were notified in the rural area in 1956, compared with 468 cases in 1955. There were 28 cases of Scarlet Fever, 16 cases of Whooping Cough and 14 cases of Dysentery, compared with respective figures of 6, 6 and 10 for 1955. The cases of Dysentery were of the mild Sonne type. No cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fevers were notified. There were 34 deaths from Malignant Neoplasms, including 7 male deaths registered as being due to Carcinoma of the lung and Bronchus. Deaths from Carcinoma of the lung and Bronchus in England and Wales rose from 693 to 726 per million population in men and from 105 to 111 per million in women over the 1955 figures. Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in 1956 totalled 4,851 compared with 5,837 in 1955. This means that since 1947 the death rate from respiratory tuberculosis has fallen by more than 75 per cent. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded in the Stafford Rural District in 1956.

The mid-1956 population of the Stafford Rural District was given as 19,340 by the Registrar-General (19,510 in mid-1955). The distribution of this population among the 26 parishes of the Rural District is shown in the body of the report.

There are 4,914 dwellings in the Rural District, 661 of these being farmhouses. 3,353 of the houses have a public mains water supply, 228 are supplied from private mains or boreholes, while 1,333 rely upon supplies from wells, springs or other supply.

2,578 of the houses have water closets, 2,210 have pail closets or fixed privies, 28 have waste water closets and 98 have Elsan closets. 2,101 of the houses are without fixed baths. The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 3,477 visits during the year, the purpose of these visits being summarised in tabular form in the report.

Eighty-nine permanent new dwellings were erected in the district in 1956 (45 by the Rural District Council and 44 by private enterprise). The situation of these houses are noted in the report. The report contains information as regards the Council's work with regard to Slum Clearance and repairs and improvements of existing houses. Much effective work has been carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector in this connection.

During 1956 Sewerage and Sewage Works were installed in Stafford to serve Great Bridgeford and Creswell and progress in the installation of Sewerage was made at Great Haywood and in the Milford, Walton and Brocton area. The public mains water supplies in the Rural District are from the Rural District Council's Hollies Boreholes and from the Stafford M.B.'s wells and boreholes at Milford. Both these supplies are chlorinated and were found satisfactory in quality during 1956. During 1956 Section 3 of the Western Area Water Scheme to the Church Eaton Area was commenced. The Council continues to press ahead with schemes of water supplies and sewerage in its area.

I conclude this introduction by thanking the staff of the Public Health Department for much help in the preparation of the report and for their satisfactory performance of work during 1956. Thanks are also expressed to the Members of the Council for their help and interest in the work of the Department, and to Dr. A. V. Campbell who has acted for me during holiday periods.

A. THOMSON.

Public Health Committee, 1956

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. J. BOURNE

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR H. C. PLANT

Members :

Councillor J. Banks	Councillor S. W. K. Marshall
„ R. H. Cartmail	„ H. J. Moulton, J.P.
„ G. H. Edwards	„ C. Meredith
(Chairman of Council, 1956-7)	„ W. Martin, M.B.E.
Councillor R. J. Fairbanks	„ C. H. Stafford
„ A. J. James	„ Northcote, M.A.
„ Miss G. Joules	„ C. C. Waterfall

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health :

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. M. LAWTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Certified Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector :

F. WEEDON, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk :

MRS. L. E. HOLLOWAY

Clerk and Trainee :

J. HENAUGHAN

General Statistics, Social Conditions and Health Services in the Area

Area (in acres)	80,249
Number of inhabited houses	4,914
Rateable Value	£143,197
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£640
Yearly Rate Levied in 1956	14/6d.
Mid-1956 Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General) : Total Population	19,340
Estimated number of Agricultural Workers	1,250
Estimated number of workers in other occupations	5,250

There were no alterations in the boundaries of the Rural Area in 1956.

Industries

Many residents in the Area are normally mainly engaged in Agriculture, Dairy Farming and Allied occupations, but a substantial number of persons resident in the Rural Area are employed in the County Town of Stafford, where the chief industries are Engineering and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing. Estimated numbers are shewn above.

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres and Hospitals

Bacteriological facilities are made available to Medical Practitioners in the Area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. The facilities included examination of Throat Swabs, Sputum Tests, Blood Tests, etc. Results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Dr. Mackay Scollay, whose helpful advice is available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands. Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical Examinations of samples of water are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst. The results of such analyses are shewn in the body of the report.

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Isolation hospitals for infectious diseases are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board (Birmingham).

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Stafford R.D. Area. Child Welfare Centres are available at Gnosall, Great Haywood, Hixon and Walton, and the Health Visitors do excellent work in promoting the Welfare of young children in the district. Your Medical Officer of Health

attends the Welfare Centres and Schools in the Area and is thus enabled to assess the health standards of the young life in the district.

There are four General Medical Practitioners resident in the Stafford R.D. and Practitioners from the neighbouring towns of Stafford, Rugeley, Newport, etc., also practise in the Area. The various parishes in the Stafford R.D. are well served by District Nurse-Midwives.

The Staffordshire General Infirmary serves the general hospital needs of the district. The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the provision of Maternity Hospital facilities. There are also several small private Maternity Homes providing for the district.

During the year the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters and use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc., relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene and so on.

Vital Statistics for the Year, 1956

In the Stafford Rural District in 1956 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 15.0 compared with a rate of 15.7 for England and Wales.

Year	Stafford R.D.		
	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		
1956	15.0
1955	15.3
1954	15.6
1953	14.4
1952	14.6
1951	15.2
1950	15.2
1949	20.8
1948	18.0
1947	18.7

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Population was 0.41 in 1956, compared with 0.36, 0.57, 0.20, 0.21, 0.15 in 1955, 1954, 1953, 1952 and 1951 respectively.

During 1956 the Rate of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births was 1 to 21, compared with figures of 1 to 16, 1 to 42, 1 to 21, 1 to 29, in 1955, 1954, 1953 and 1952 respectively.

There were 290 (299) Live Births in the Rural Area in 1956, 165 (157) boys and 125 (142) girls. The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1955.

In the following table Comparative figures of Live and Still-Births are shewn for England and Wales :—

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales
1956	15.0	15.7	0.41	0.36
1955	15.3	15.0	0.36	0.35
1954	15.6	15.2	0.57	0.36
1953	14.4	15.5	0.20	0.35
1952	14.6	15.3	0.21	0.35
1951	15.2	15.5	0.15	0.36
1950	15.2	15.8	0.16	0.37
1949	20.8	16.7	0.20	0.39
1948	18.0	17.9	0.79	0.42
1947	18.7	20.5	0.86	0.50

There were 8 Still-Births in the Rural Area (5m., 3f.) in 1956, all being legitimate. This represented a rate of 26.8 per 1,000 Total Live and Still-Births compared with a rate of 23.0 for England and Wales.

Deaths

In 1956 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 8.9 compared with a Rate of 11.7 for England and Wales.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1956	8.9	11.7
1955	8.4	11.7
1954	7.8	11.3
1953	6.9	11.4
1952	8.7	11.3
1951	9.3	12.5
1950	9.5	11.6
1949	10.1	11.7
1948	9.1	10.8
1947	10.2	12.0

In the Stafford Rural District in 1956, total deaths numbered 173—86 males and 87 females. The excess of live births over total deaths was 117, compared with 136, 152, 147, 113, 116, 106 and 164 in 1955, 1954, 1953, 1952, 1951, 1950 and 1949 respectively.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 12, 11 legitimate, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 41.4 compared

with 23.8. for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest ever recorded.

At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	
	Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1956	41.4	23.8
1955	13.4	24.9
1954	23.0	25.4
1953	42	26.8
1952	21	27.6
1951	50	29.6
1950	39	29.8
1949	25	32
1948	29	34
1947	32	41

1956—Deaths under One Year of Age

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
30 Minutes	M.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, Difficult Labour.
3 Hours	F.	Asphyxia Pallida, Prematurity.
12 Hours	F.	Atelectasis, Immaturity.
1 Day	M.	Prematurity.
5 Days	F.	Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn.
9 Days	M.	Asphyxia, Congenital Atelectasis.
3 Months	F.	Hydrocephalus.
3 Months	M.	Brain Abscess, Otitis Media.
3 Months	M.	Asphyxia, Choking, Misadventure.
6 Months	F.	Head Injuries, Car Accident.
8 Months	M.	Broncho-Pneumonia, Influenza, Mongolism.
9 Months	M.	Toxaemia, Inhalation Broncho — Pneu- monia.

In England and Wales in 1956 live births registered during the year numbered 699,059, which was 34,105 more than in 1955. There were 16,471 deaths of children under one year of age in 1956, representing a rate of 23.8 per 1,000 live births. This was the lowest annual rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

The total number of deaths in 1956 was 521,402, representing a rate of 11.7 per thousand population, compared with rates of 11.7 in 1955 and 11.3 in 1954. Stillbirths in 1956 numbered 16,431,

a rate of 23.0 per thousand total live and still births. In the five years 1889—1893 in England and Wales the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 of the population and the Death Rate was 19.7.

In 1956 the fall in the Tuberculosis deaths continued, the total number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis being 4,851 representing a death rate of 109 per million persons. Since 1947 the death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis has fallen by more than 75 per cent.

Population—England and Wales

Year	Males	Females	Total
1801	4,254,735	4,637,801	8,892,536
1851	8,781,225	9,146,384	17,927,609
1901	15,728,613	16,799,230	32,527,843
1951	21,049,000	22,751,000	43,800,000
1956	21,619,000	23,152,000	44,771,000

Population, England and Wales, as at 30th June, 1956, by sex and age

(Figures in thousands)

	All Ages	0—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 & over
Male	21,619	1,687	3,516	2,849	3,109	3,131	3,132	2,200	1,386	609
Female	23,152	1,604	3,358	2,779	3,100	3,217	3,263	2,703	1,982	1,146

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1951. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1956 the proportions were respectively 23% and 11%.

Expectation of Life, England and Wales

On the basis of the death-rates for the year 1955, the expectation of life of a boy at birth is given as 68 years and that of a girl as 73 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901—1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

Deaths, England and Wales

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14,079	12,031	9,335	7,913	7,069	5,837
Non. Respiratory Tuberculosis	1,890	1,775	1,250	989	828	655
Diphtheria	49	33	32	23	9	13
Whooping Cough	394	456	184	243	139	88
Measles	221	317	141	245	50	176
Malignant Disease of Lung and Bronchus	12,241	13,247	14,218	15,132	16,331	17,272
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,230	4,510	4,117	4,375	4,589	4,923

Stafford R.D. Deaths, 1956 : Causes

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms : all sites	17	17	34
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	12	13	25
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	26	32	58
Influenza	2	3	5
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	2	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis	—	—	—
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	—	—	—
Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	—	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All other Accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	3	—	3
Homicide	—	—	—
All Other Causes	12	10	22
TOTALS	86	87	173

DEATHS, 1956 : AGE GROUPS AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL DEATHS Total Deaths—173 (86M., 87F.)

Age Groups and Percentages of Total D'ths	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	30—	40—	50—	60—	70—	80—	90 and Over	Totals
MALES % of Total	7 4.0	1 0.6	1 0.6	1 0.6	1 0.6	3 1.7	2 1.2	4 2.3	9 5.2	23 13.3	16 9.2	15 8.7	3 1.7	86 49.7 %
FEMALES % fo Total	5 2.9	2 1.2	—	—	—	—	4 2.3	6 3.5	9 5.2	13 7.5	20 11.6	23 13.3	5 2.9	87 50.3 %
Total M.&F. % of Total	12 6.9	3 1.7	1 0.6	1 0.6	1 0.6	3 1.7	6 3.5	10 5.8	18 10.4	36 20.8	36 20.8	38 22.0	8 4.6	173 100 %

Cancer Mortality

Malignant neoplasms caused 34 deaths in the rural area in 1956 (17 males, 17 females).

“The increase in the incidence of Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus causes most anxiety. There can be little doubt that this condition is on the increase and has probably been increasing since 1920. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence—air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking—though other factors, at present unknown, may also be operative. The reduction of atmospheric pollution is a desideratum for community hygiene, which requires the active intervention of the local authority—now more easily invoked than of old. The excessive smoking of cigarettes is a personal addiction in which the individual can and must ‘minister unto himself’.”

Mortality from Cancer, all forms, England and Wales

Year	Number of Deaths			Death Rate per Million	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1944	35,887	37,610	73,497	2,217	1,741
1951	44,632	41,448	86,080	2,121	1,820
1952	45,429	42,213	87,642	2,152	1,848
1953	45,935	41,989	87,924	2,166	1,833
1954	47,313	42,782	90,095	2,223	1,861
1955	48,159	43,178	91,337	2,252	1,873

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus

In the Stafford Rural District in 1956 there were seven deaths registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus—all being males (aged 38, 44, 52, 54, 63, 74, 80).

Provisional figures for 1956 for England and Wales relating to deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus shew an increase from 693 to 726 per million population in men and from 105 to 111 for women, over the 1955 figures. 17,272 persons died from this cause in 1956.

Of the 91,337 deaths from all forms of Cancer in 1955 the proportion attributed to Cancer of the Lung was 19%. In 1954 and 1953 it was 18% and 17% respectively.

Cancer of Lung, Bronchus and Pleura. Death Rates per million

1900	10	7
1910	13	9
1920	17	10
1930	55	21
1940	187	49
1952	568	98
1953	607	98
1954	657	102
1955	693	105
1956	726	111

Names of Parishes in Stafford Rural District shewing number of houses (including farm houses), approximate population figures and Incidence of Infectious Diseases in each parish in 1956

Name of Parish	Number of Houses	Approximate Population	Infectious Diseases Notified 1956										
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (excluding) Rubella	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para- typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Adbaston	191	606	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Berkswich	345	1,236	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bradley	85	315	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brocton	231	787	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Church	206	734	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Church Eaton	279	984	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich	495	1,740	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Creswell	91	315	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ellenhall	51	168	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	197	700	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fradswell	45	151	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	51	185	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	713	2,278	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haughton	167	524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley	222	733	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hopton and Coton	253	3,327	—	—	4	3	2	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ingestre	47	160	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	47	180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	93	284	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranton	72	270	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt and Enson	96	378	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	365	1,094	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stowe	359	1,369	4	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Tixall	46	202	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston	117	408	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitgreave	50	212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,914	19,340	28	—	10	16	6	14	—	—	—	2	4

No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Stafford R.D. in 1956.

The 14 cases of Dysentery were of the mild Sonne type. “ There is little doubt that much of the increase in the notification of Dysentery is due to the extended coverage now provided by the development of the Public Health Laboratory Service and the greater interest aroused among doctors thereby. Sonne Dysentery is pre-eminently a disease of childhood. Many cases occur in nurseries, schools and similar institutions catering for children. A great deal of the infection could undoubtedly be prevented if the practice of thoroughly washing the hands after using the lavatory

was universal.. In fact, this simple act is the most effective of all the preventive measures applicable to this infection, and its general performance would do much to limit the spread of the disease.”

Infectious Diseases

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1956 compared with that of previous years is shewn below in tabular form :—

Disease	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Scarlet Fever	28	6	19	38	59	27	32	34	55	35	26	27
Whooping Cough	16	6	23	74	46	201	5	36	53	16	37	35
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Erysipelas	—	1	3	2	1	2	5	5	3	1	2	4
Measles (excluding Rubella)	10	468	8	326	47	126	314	43	115	125	1	164
Primary Pneumonia	6	3	4	8	8	7	10	6	2	3	3	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	14	10	1	—	—	5	5	—	—	1	10	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	2	1	—	—	—	1	9	1	—	6	—	—

It has been stated that Scarlet Fever is a diminishing hazard to the child life of this country ; during the past 30 years it has lost many of its terrors and is now important principally as a cause of interference with the schooling of children. Like most of the infections of childhood, it is the more dangerous the younger the patient, and for the child who avoids it until he reaches school age it is usually an exceedingly mild disease. In each of the years 1871-1880 in England and Wales deaths from Scarlet Fever averaged 719 per million population ; the figure in 1952 was 0.5 per million population. In 1870, 32,543 deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded.

“ Like many virus infections measles is spread directly from person to person and the infection gains access to the respiratory tract—probably via the naso-pharynx. Our inability to control it is due to its high infectiousness before the patient shows any sign of its presence. He may spread his infection for several days before the characteristic rash is seen. It is fortunate that, like that of Scarlet Fever, the fatality rate of Measles has been steadily falling. Were this not so, an epidemic such as was experienced in 1955 would have had a formidable death roll. Measles, often negligible as a disease, is commonly an inconvenience. It is pre-eminently a “ school ” disease and when large outbreaks occur it is capable of causing a good deal of disorganisation in the children’s curricula. Fortunately, absence from school on account of Measles should not exceed 10 days, provided that the complications sometimes associated with the illness do not occur.”

Infectious Diseases—England and Wales
SCARLET FEVER

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Cases	92,671	73,687	56,730	58,047	74,831	70,667	65,889	48,744	67,261	61,180	43,026	32,619
Deaths	107	84	43	42	37	18	33	37	23	27	27	21
Case Fatality (%)	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01

Most of Scarlet Fever cases now are very mild : the progressive fall in mortality has not been accompanied by a comparable decline in the number of cases.

MEASLES

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Notifications	158,479	446,796	160,402	393,787	399,606	385,935	367,725	616,192	389,502	545,050	146,995	693,803
Deaths	243	729	204	644	327	307	221	317	141	245	50	176
Case Fatality (%)	0.15	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03

WHOOPIING COUGH

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Notifications	94,044	62,691	92,936	92,682	146,410	102,816	157,781	169,441	114,869	157,842	105,912	79,133
Deaths	1,054	689	808	905	748	527	394	457	184	243	139	88
Case Fatality (%)	1.12	1.10	0.87	0.98	0.51	0.51	0.25	0.27	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11

POLIOMYELITIS

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Total Cases	526	853	680	7,776	1,855	5,982	7,760	2,614	3,910	4,547	1,960	6,331
Deaths	139	139	128	707	241	657	755	217	295	338	134	270

Age—Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1956

AGE- GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diph- theria		Measles (exclud- ing Rubella)		Whoop- ing Cough		Primary Pneumonia		Dys- entery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para- Typhoid Fever		Ery- sipelas		Polio- myelitis		Res- piratory Tuber- culosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 years	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
3—4 years	2	3	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years	6	7	—	—	2	1	4	3	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10—14 years	4	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 years	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
45—64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	16	—	—	7	3	9	7	3	3	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2

Infectious Diseases Notifications, 1956, showing Months of Occurrence
(1955 Figures in Brackets)

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles (exclud- ing Rubella)	Whoop- ing Cough	Pneum'ia (Acute) Primary	Dysen- tery	Food Poison- ing	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para- Typhoid Fever	Ery- sipelas	Poliomyelitis Para- lytic	Non- Paralytic
January	— (1)	— (—)	2 (16)	1 (1)	— (1)	5 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
February	— (—)	— (—)	— (42)	— (—)	3 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
March	10 (3)	— (—)	— (29)	1 (3)	1 (—)	5 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
April	8 (1)	— (—)	— (37)	2 (1)	1 (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
May	6 (—)	— (—)	— (136)	— (—)	— (1)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
June.....	2 (1)	— (—)	3 (135)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
July	— (—)	— (—)	— (64)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
August	1 (—)	— (—)	— (5)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)
September	1 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
October	— (—)	— (—)	3 (3)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
November	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (6)	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)
December	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	10 (—)	— (—)	— (4)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
TOTALS	28 (6)	— (—)	10 (468)	16 (6)	6 (3)	14 (10)	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	2 (1)	— (—)

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1956 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, welfare centres and by private practitioners. No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Stafford Rural District in 1956.

With the fall in the number of cases and of deaths from Diphtheria a feeling of complacency may be engendered in the public mind. The maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation is absolutely essential.

It is vital to secure that not less than 75% of children are immunised before their first birthday.

Intensive efforts must, therefore, be continued to achieve the level of immunisation necessary. The fullest publicity is advocated by the Ministry as essential if parents are to be helped to realize that Diphtheria is still a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised.

The incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall. Records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1944, and, in that year, there were 23,199 notifications and 934 deaths.

DIPHTHERIA

Year	Annual Average 1916-1925	Annual Average 1933-1942	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Notifications	51,573	55,125	3,575	1,890	962	664	376	266	173	155
Deaths	4,214	2,783	156	84	49	33	32	23	9	13
Fatality Ratio (Deaths per 100 Notifications).	8.2	5.0	4.36	4.44	5.09	4.52	6.12	7.52	4.62	7.74

The Ministry of Health stresses the need for intensive effort in the field of Diphtheria Immunisation, as the elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of outbreaks of Diphtheria.

Scarcely less important than the primary immunisation is the reinforcing injection known as the booster dose. The protection conferred by the primary immunisation wanes with the passage of time and after about five years it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective. Another injection of the immunising substance boosts and restores the protection to its full value, hence the term "booster" dose given to it.

Deaths from diphtheria at the present time represent for the most part severe reactions in children without previous active immunisation and with much lessened chances than formerly of

immunity acquired by previous contact with mild infection. The following table shows the Diphtheria Immunisation figures for the Stafford Rural District in 1956—

Age	Primary Immunisation				Reinforcing Injections		
	1956	1955	1954	.....	1956	1955	1954
Under 1 year.....	86	72	90	.....	—	—	—
1—4 years	96	119	151	.....	7	12	—
5—14 years	38	32	76	.....	151	107	250
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	220	223	317	.....	158	119	250
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

When related to the 664,233 births in England and Wales during 12 months ended 30th June, 1955 the 241,819 records of primary vaccinations against Smallpox done under one year of age in 1955 represents an infant vaccination acceptance rate of 36.4%, corresponding figures for 1954 and 1953 being, 34.5% and 34.2% respectively.

In 1956 there were 290 live births in the Stafford Rural District and 97 children under one were vaccinated, giving an infant vaccination acceptance rate of 33.4% (in 1955, 28.8%). 1956 figures for vaccination in the rural area were as follows :—

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 & over	Totals
Vaccinations	97 (86)	21 (25)	6 (6)	7 (2)	131 (119)
Re-Vaccinations	— (—)	4 (1)	3 (6)	15 (16)	22 (23)
(1955 figures shown in brackets)					

It is felt that routine infant vaccination, together with re-vaccination on entering and leaving school (at ages 5 and 15) would greatly reduce the vulnerability of the community to the spread of smallpox. It would appear that the risk of smallpox to-day in this country is probably greater than it has been for generations. It is said that the repeal of the Vaccination Acts is producing a largely unvaccinated community, and the ex-Service population offers a host of carriers who are themselves partly immune from former vaccinations to convey the disease in forms giving rise to difficulties in speedy diagnosis. A mild “ illness with spots ” in a traveller from abroad may be the picture which smallpox presents, but, conveyed to an unvaccinated person, may reveal itself as smallpox in its most deadly form. Smallpox has become so rare in this country that its high mortality and legacy of dreadful disfigurement are in danger of being forgotten. Vaccination and re-Vaccination is the answer to this situation. Local Health Authorities throughout the country should appreciate the potential danger in the present situation and take appropriate steps to meet it.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Towards the end of 1953 immunisation against Whooping Cough facilities were made available by the County Council as Local Health Authority. Immunisation involves three injections at monthly intervals between each injection, commencing when the child is four months old, but available for older children. The complications and sequelae of Whooping Cough can be very serious in childhood, and parents will wish to take full advantage of the protection which immunisation offers against infection. Immunisations are carried out at the various Welfare Centres and by private practitioners.

During 1956 100 (116) children in Stafford R.D. were immunised against Whooping Cough (1955 figures in brackets).

Age	.....	.....	Number
Under 1	.....	.....	64 (69)
Aged 1	.....	.....	25 (27)
Aged 2	.....	.....	11 (20)
Total			100 (116)

In addition four reinforcing injections were given.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following extract from the Register was taken at the end of December, 1956 (1955 figures in brackets).

1956	Cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis			Cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total of Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
End of December, 1956	24 (19)	15 (13)	39 (32)	5 (1)	2 (2)	7 (3)	46 (35)

No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in the Rural Area in 1956. Four cases (2M., 2 F.) of Respiratory Tuberculosis and two cases (2M.) of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. The table is adjusted re “cured” cases, inward and outward transfers, etc.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

During the year the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority made arrangements for a start to be made in the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis. The supply of vaccine was limited and vaccination was restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Vaccination involved two injections, with an interval of at least three weeks between the first and second injection. In the Stafford Rural District 76 children were vaccinated.

England and Wales : Deaths From Tuberculosis

Year	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			All Forms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Average 1851-60	23,931	26,962	50,893	8,311	6,683	14,994	32,242	33,645	65,887
1939	12,702	8,840	21,542	2,229	1,852	4,081	14,931	10,692	25,623
1949	10,740	6,819	17,559	1,283	1,066	2,349	12,023	7,885	19,908
1951	7,903	4,128	12,031	923	852	1,775	8,826	4,980	13,806
1952	6,421	2,914	9,335	693	557	1,250	7,114	3,471	10,585
1953	5,447	2,466	7,913	517	472	989	5,964	2,938	8,902
1954	4,944	2,125	7,069	448	380	828	5,392	2,505	7,897
1955	4,172	1,665	5,837	361	294	655	4,533	1,959	6,492

“The present is recognized as a critical phase in the war against Tuberculosis—a scourge which has destroyed over five million people in England and Wales during the past hundred years. There is considerable optimism that present methods of treating its victims and preventing its spread are such that, within the next few decades, the disease may be effectively brought under control. The gain would be great, since Tuberculosis still ranks as by far the chief of the group of infectious diseases, especially in the most productive years of life. In 1955 it caused 67 per cent of all deaths due to infection, and no less than 78 per cent of these in the age group 15 to 39 years.”

National Assistance Act, 1948

During 1956 no action under Section 47 of the above Act was taken by the Council.

ACCIDENT STATISTICS FOR 1956

Mr. R. A. Yeomans, the Council's Road Safety Organiser, has kindly provided the following report for the year 1956.

"The following table shows the number of accidents occurring in the Stafford Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1956, together with the corresponding figures for 1955 as shown in brackets :—

Fatal	With Injury	Damage only	Total
3 (7)	78 (132)	143 (182)	224 (321)

The number of persons involved in the above accidents when death or injury was sustained is as follows :—

Fatal	Seriously injured	Slightly injured	Total
3 (7)	27 (69)	86 (121)	116 (197)

The classification of persons injured in the above accidents are :—

	Fatal	Seriously injured	Slightly injured	Total
Pedestrians under 15 years	(—)	(5)	3 (4)	3 (9)
Pedestrians over 15 years	(—)	2 (4)	(5)	2 (9)
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	2 (1)	6 (18)	23 (34)	31 (53)
Motor Cyclists	1 (4)	7 (18)	15 (25)	23 (47)
Pillion Passengers	(—)	(5)	3 (10)	3 (15)
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	(—)	1 (2)	(4)	1 (6)
Pedal Cyclists over 15 years	(1)	2 (5)	4 (10)	6 (16)
Other Persons (passengers, etc.)	(1)	7 (12)	37 (29)	44 (42)
Totals	3 (7)	25 (69)	85 (121)	113 (197)

The Road Safety Committee has, during the year, made many representations regarding road improvements, the majority of which have been effected due to the co-operation of the County Surveyor. Road Safety propaganda material has been distributed on a wide scale and the portable exhibition has again been in great demand.

Cycling Training and Cycling Proficiency Tests have been carried out in addition to the annual children's painting competition."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

<i>Total Number of Dwellings in Rural District</i>	.....	.....	4,914
No. of Farmhouses	.....	.....	661
No. of Dwellings other than Farmhouses	.....	4,253	

State of Fitness of Dwellings :

Houses satisfactory in all respects	.....	.....	1,528
Houses with Minor Defects	.....	.....	1,090
Houses requiring repair of major character	.....		842
Houses suitable for reconditioning	.....	.....	334
Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	.....	.....	459
			<hr/> 4,253

(Note.—No Figures are available under this sub-heading for farmhouses).

Sanitary Services :

Water Supply :

Houses on Public Mains	.....	.....	3,353
Houses on Private Mains	.....	.....	109
Houses on Private Borehole	.....	.....	119
Houses on Well Water, Spring or other Supply			1,333
			<hr/> 4,914

Sewerage and Drainage :

No of Houses :

(a) Connected to Sewer	.....	.....	1,620
(b) Connected to Septic Tank or Ditch	.....		3,150
(c) Without Drainage	.....	.....	144
			<hr/> 4,914

Closet Accommodation, etc. :

Houses with :

Water Closet	.....	.....	2,578
Pail Closet or Fixed Privy	.....	.....	2,210
Waste Water Closet	.....	.....	28
Elsan Closet	.....	.....	98
			<hr/> 4,914

Houses without :

Sink	.....	.....	82
Bath	.....	.....	2,101

SANITARY INSPECTION—SUMMARY OF VISITS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	1,221
These Inspections were for the following purposes :—	
(a) Slum Clearance	335
(b) Inspection of Houses for repairs and for Improvement Grants	283
(c) Inspections of living Vans and Sheds	393
(d) Overcrowding and Housing Applications	194
(e) Verminous and Dirty Dwellings	11
	1,221
Inspection of Premises for and re Nuisances	75
Drainage Inspections	320
Visits re Food Supply :	
Meat	298
Ice-Cream	25
Other Foods	46
Cafes	12
Infection of Milk Supply	9
Dairies	8
Infectious Diseases	155
Visits re Water Supply	104
Samples of Water taken for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination	48
Refuse Tips—Supervision	346
Refuse and Salvage Collection	282
Factories (including Bakehouses) and Outworkers	16
Slaughter Houses (other than Meat Inspection)	8
Knackers' Yards	20
Petroleum Stores	21
Rat Infestations	137
Other Infestations	132
Keeping of Animals	1
Shops Acts	63
Accumulation of Refuse	36
Miscellaneous Visits	70
Smoke Nuisances	24
	3,477

NOTICES SERVED DURING YEAR :

	No. Served	No. complied with
Informal Notices and Letters as to general matters	105	51
Informal Notices to provide Dust- bins	16	9
Satutory Notice served under Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 9)	1	—

PARISH STATISTICS AND SERVICES

Parish	Approx. popula- tion in Parish	No. of houses in Parish	Amenity	Public Health Services to Parish or part of Parish					Water supplied direct to house		Water supplied by standpipe		Total Dwel- lings on main	Parish
									No. of houses	Popula- tion	No. of houses	Popula- tion		
Adbaston	606	191	R	RW		El		RC	114	399	—	—	114	Adbaston
Berkswich	1,236	345	SR	BW	S	El	G	RC	342	1,228	1	1	343	Berkswich
Bradley	315	85	R			El		RC	—	—	—	—	—	Bradley
Brocton	787	231	SR	BW		El	G	RC	225	774	3	9	228	Brocton
Castle Church	734	206	SR	BW	S	El	G	RC	190	706	—	—	190	Castle Church
Church Eaton	984	279	R	SW	S	El		RC	102	360	19	70	121	Church Eaton
Colwich	1,740	495	SR	BW	S	El		RC	443	1,540	13	50	456	Colwich
Creswell	315	91	SR	BW	S	El	G	RC	89	310	—	—	89	Creswell
Ellenhall	168	51	R	RW		El		RC	33	101	—	—	33	Ellenhall
Forton	700	197	R	RW	S	El	G	RC	90	356	—	—	90	Forton
Fradswell	151	45	R			El		RC	—	—	—	—	—	Fradswell
Gayton	185	51	R			El		RC	—	—	—	—	—	Gayton
Gnosall	2,278	713	R	RW	S	El		RC	631	2,095	—	—	631	Gnosall
Haughton	524	167	R		S	El		RC	—	—	—	—	—	Haughton
High Offley	733	222	R	RW		El		RC	168	520	—	—	168	High Offley
Hopton & Coton	3,327*	253	SR	BW	S	El	G	RC	241	793	7	28	248	Hopton & Coton
Ingestre	160	47	R	IW	S	El		RC	47	137	—	—	47	Ingestre
Marston	180	47	R	CCW		El		RC	31	130	—	—	31	Marston
Norbury	284	93	R	RW	S	El		RC	72	239	—	—	72	Norbury
Ranton	270	72	R	RW		El		RC	15	48	—	—	15	Ranton
Salt & Enson	378	96	R	IW & BW	S	El		RC	52	170	—	—	52	Salt & Enson
Seighford	1,094	365	R	RW	S	El		RC	331	1,002	—	—	331	Seighford
Stowe	1,369*	359	R	BW	S	El		RC	116	413	—	—	116	Stowe
Tixall	202	46	R	BW		El	G	RC	38	186	—	—	38	Tixall
Weston	408	117	R			El		RC	—	—	—	—	—	Weston
Whitgreave	212	50	R	CCW & RW		El		RC	48	203	—	—	48	Whitgreave
TOTALS	19,340	4,914							3,418	11,710	43	158	3,461	

*Include Polish families in converted huts, H.M. Forces, etc.

REFERENCES

R Rural
SR Semi-Rural

RW Stafford R.D.C. Hollies Water Supply
BW Stafford Borough Water Supply
SW Stafford R.D.C. Church Eaton Bore Supply
IW Ingestre Private Piped Supply
CCW Staffs. C.C. Yarlet Bank Private Supply

S Sewerage
El Electricity
G Gas
RD Refuse Collection

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR :

Total number received	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
As to Repairs to Dwellings	.....	.....	.....	6	
Others	.....	.....	.....	17	

WATER SUPPLY

The public mains supplies are solely from this Council's boreholes at The Hollies, Gnosall, and from the Stafford Borough Council's wells and boreholes at Milford. Both these supplies were satisfactory in quality and quantity and are chlorinated.

The Hollies supply is from two boreholes giving, by 14 and 8 day tests a normal yield of 468,965 and 1,200,000 gallons from each. The water is pumped to the Hob Hill (Knightley) storage reservoirs of 500,000 gallons capacity.

During the year under review part of Section 3 of the Western Area Water Scheme to the Church Eaton area was commenced.

Private mains supplies are given to Ingestre and Salt and Enson (from Ingestre Estate Supply) and to Marston and Whitgreave (from Staffordshire County Council Yarlet Bank supply).

The supplies to those dwellings dependent on individual wells and springs, are frequently unsatisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Samples of drinking water taken during the year, together with results, are as follows :—

	Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Exam. and Chemical Analysis	RESULTS		
		Fit	Unfit	Borderline
Wells (Private)	29	12	13	4
Springs (Private)	4	3	1	—
Boreholes (Private)	8	5	1	2
Main Supplies :				
(a) Public	1	1	—	—
(b) Private	6	5	—	1
	48	26	15	7

Examples of examination of the public and private mains supplies are given in the table on page 24. The number of dwellings supplied from mains at December, 1956, (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of stand pipes are shown in the table following page 22.

SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MAINS SUPPLIES IN THE AREA

	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	Hollies Bore Stafford R.D.C. (Taken from Private Dwelling, Gnosall)	Stafford Borough Supply (Taken from Hixon Council Houses)	Ingestre Estate Supply* (Taken from Weston Hall)	Staffs. County Council (Yarlet Bank) Supply (Taken from No. 72 Holding, Yarlet)
	Sample No. 866	Sample No. 864	Sample No. 868	Sample No. 865
Date and Hour of Collection	13.12.56— 3-40 p.m.	10.12.56—2-10 p.m.	17.12.56—12-30 p.m.	13.12.56—3-45 p.m.
Bacteriological Examination				
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chemical Analysis				
pH Value	7.5	7.1	7.3	7.5
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	40.0	40.0	35.0	56.0
Albuminoid	Nil	0.0012	Nil	0.0020
Nitric Nitrogen	Nil	0.0024	0.0024	Nil
Chlorine present as Chloride	0.15	0.50	1.25	0.25
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	3.20	7.00	4.05	2.75
Appearance	Nil	0.008	0.027	0.063
	No Colour	No colour. Minute trace of suspended matter	No Colour	No colour. Minute trace of suspended matter
Metallic Contamination	Nil	Nil	Nil	Zinc 0.40

*Previous samples taken from this source have been intermittently satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE

During the year sewage works and sewerage were installed to serve Great Bridgeford and Creswell and the installation of sewerage progressed at Great Haywood and in the Milford, Walton and Brocton area.

At the present time the greater number of houses in the area are drained to cesspools or septic tanks and soakaways in the gardens of the houses.

The number of dwellings sewered and the number of W.C's, etc., in the area are shown on page 21.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

The collection of house refuse was carried out by direct labour from all the villages and built-up areas of the Council's district.

Four modern type low-loading refuse collection vehicles—one of 7 cub. yd. capacity (2-man cab), one of 12 cub. yd. capacity (2-man cab), and two of 10 cub. yd. capacity (6-man cabs)—were employed. The purchase dates of the vehicles are 1947, 1948, 1951 and 1954, respectively. Eleven men were engaged on this work in addition to the foreman.

Over 4,000 dwellings received the service, approximately half of these being serviced approximately weekly and the remainder fortnightly. The few dwellings which do not receive the service are in isolated positions as the service cannot embrace such dwellings except at excessive additional cost.

It is contended that the provision of a satisfactory and regular refuse collection service to a district so vast as this—the total mileage covered in the year being approximately 30,000—is no mean achievement. Approximately 3,000 tons of refuse were collected during the year.

With the aid of a mechanical shovel, the several refuse tips were kept in reasonable order and steps were regularly taken to keep them rat-free by poisoning methods during the year.

Costs.—A statement as to the cost of refuse collection and disposal during the financial year ended 31st March, 1957, is given below :—

	£	£
<i>Refuse Collection—</i>		
Labour		4,957
<i>Vehicles—</i>		
Repairs and Maintenance	557	
Tax and Insurance	186	
Petrol and Oil	931	
Garage Rent	83	
Debt Redemption and Interest on two vehicles	262	
	—	2,019
Equipment etc.		40
		<hr/> £7,016 <hr/>
<i>Refuse Disposal—</i>		
Labour		431
<i>Tractor—</i>		
Repairs and Maintenance	60	
Tax and Insurance	44	
Petrol and Oil	57	
Debt Redemption and Interest	216	
	—	377
Equipment, etc.		14
		<hr/> £822 <hr/>

Thus the cost of the service per 1,000 population is £405 per annum—a most reasonable figure. The annual statement of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government shows that the net average costs for Rural Districts only and for all authorities making annual returns in England and Wales in the year 1955/6 were £431 and £593 respectively per 1,000 of the population.

Salvage Collection.—Due to the decreased value of salvaged paper, a negligible amount was collected separately and sold.

HOUSING—GENERAL

New Houses erected or provided during 1956 :—

(a)	by Local Authority (Permanent Houses)	45
	These were at Ranton 4, Gnosall 33 and Norbury 8.	
(b)	by Private Enterprise	44
	These were at Berkswich 5, Brocton 5, Castle Church 12, Colwich 8, Seighford 6, Bradley 1, Haughton 2, High Offley 1, Stowe 1, Gnosall 1 and Adbaston 2.	
		<hr/> 89 <hr/>

HOUSING—REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT

Much time was devoted by the Public Health Inspectors to existing housing conditions. A number of overcrowded cases and other families living in insanitary conditions were rehoused to better accommodation and a number of dwellings were repaired and improved by the efforts of the department.

Extensive and detailed records of the dwellings in the district are kept in the department.

The high cost of repairs and continued low rents prevent much remedial work being carried out but the owners of a number of unfit dwellings in the district have been encouraged by Improvement Grants to improve and completely repair their dwellings.

The following table gives information as to Improvement Grant applications considered by the Council during 1956 and during the period such grants have been available (i.e. 1949 to May, 1957):—

Year	No. Granted	Total Value of Work	Total Grants	No. Refused	No. With- drawn	Work Completed
1956	49	£ s. d. 30,582 12 9	£ s. d. 12,356 14 3	2	2	30
Whole Period	98	56,306 11 5	22,783 5 1	6	8	46

HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 55/54 required local authorities to state the action they propose to take in the five years commencing 1st September, 1955 to clear away grossly unfit dwellings.

The Stafford R.D.C. return undertook to deal with all the 474 grossly unfit dwellings in its area within the five years and the following outline programme was adopted :—

1st year	.....	.....	.....	56 dwellings
2nd year	.....	.....	.....	58 ,,
3rd year	.....	.....	.....	81 ,,
4th and 5th years	.....	.....	.....	279 ,,
				<hr/> 474 dwellings

Early in 1955 fourteen of these dwellings had already been dealt with and towards the end of 1955 a prompt and sound start was made on the five year programme when resolutions were passed to deal with the first 56 dwellings by Section 11 (Individual Unfit) procedure of the Housing Act, 1936, and to rehouse all displaced

families. The second year's programme dealing similarly with a further 58 dwellings is now completed.

The Section 11 "Time and Place" meetings with owners and other interested parties resulted thus :—

	Early 1955	Five-Year Programme	
		First Year 1955-1956	Second Year 1956-1957
1. Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	11	44	38
2. Closing Orders under Section 10, Local Government (Miscell. Provs.) Act, 1953	1	4	6
3. Local Authority Unfit Dwellings to be Demolished by Ministry H. & L.G. Circular No. 33/56		—	5
4. Undertakings :—			
(a) Not to use till rendered fit	1 } 2	3 } 7	3 } 4
(b) Render fit within specified period	1 }	4 }	1 }
5. Decision deferred		1	5
	14	56	58
TOTAL		128	

No appeals were made against the Demolition Orders or the Closing Orders and they are now all operative.

The two pages following give maps of the area showing

- (a) the stage reached to date in the council's slum clearance campaign and
- (b) the need for cooperation—and reciprocal cooperation—between rural and town areas in satisfactorily re-housing the families displaced by clearance action. The large majority of the families which are to be displaced and are employed in the nearby towns make strong and justifiable application for rehousing in the town of their employment.

It should be noted that both maps refer to the first three years only of the slum clearance programme.

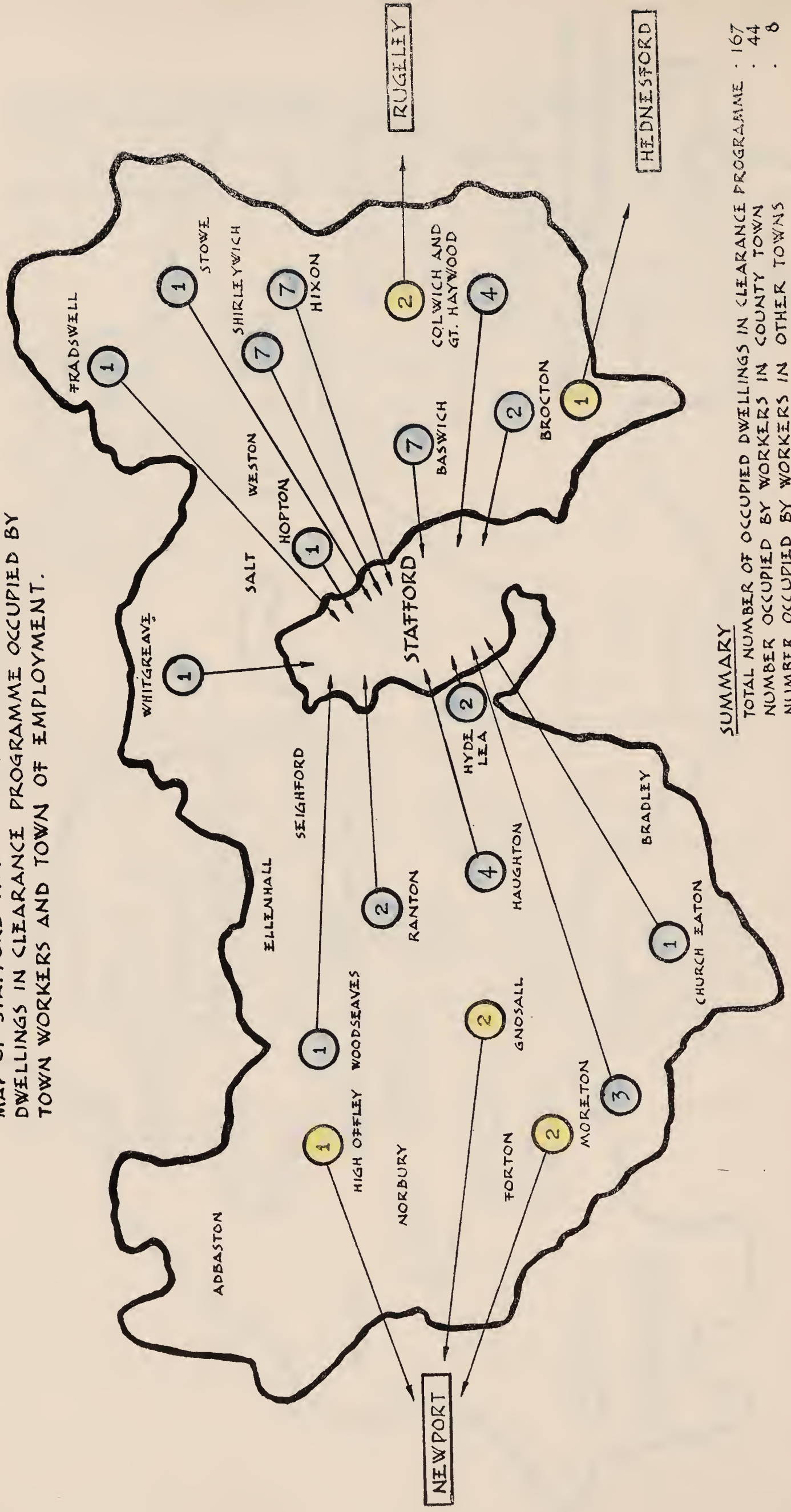
SLUM CLEARANCE IN STAFFORD R. D. C. AREA



KEY

- DWELLINGS TO BE DEALT WITH IN 3rd YEAR
- DWELLINGS DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED OR SUBJECT TO DEMOLITION ORDERS
- ◐ DWELLINGS FOR WHICH UNDERTAKINGS TO REPAIR HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
- ◑ DWELLINGS ABOUT WHICH DECISION IS DEFERRED
- CLEARANCE AREA OF 10 DWELLINGS DEMOLISHED

MAP OF STAFFORD R.D.C. AREA SHOWING NUMBER OF DWELLINGS IN CLEARANCE PROGRAMME OCCUPIED BY TOWN WORKERS AND TOWN OF EMPLOYMENT.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

The following shows the number and type of factories in the area :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections during 1956
(i) Non-Mechanical	Nil	0
(ii) Mechanical Factories	26	16
TOTAL	26	16

In one instance unsuitable sanitary convenience was encountered and remedied. Only five of the factories are of any size.

No outworkers were employed in the district of the Council during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Ninety-four Licences were issued during the year for the bulk storage of 84,920 gallons of motor spirit. 61 of the licensed premises had hand-pumps fitted to storage tanks, 31 had electric pumps and one stored in metal barrels and containers. In addition one licence was issued for the storage of 20 gallons of petroleum mixture.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provided a free service of rat disinfestation to residential property, while the treatment of some of the farms in the area was executed by the Staffordshire Agricultural Executive Committee, by contract. The cost of treating other properties by the Council is re-charged to the occupiers.

Infestations which were treated by the department during 1956 were :—

R.D.C. Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	3
All other properties	22

Of 102 farms inspected, no major infestations were found.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1950

The following table gives an analysis of the total number of shops and the number of inspections made during the year.

	No. of Shops	No. of Assistants				No. of Inspections
		Occupier's Family		Others		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Butchers	8	8	2	4	—	8
Catering Establishments	13	5	5	1	7	11
Electricians	1	1	—	—	—	—
Fruit and Vegetables	3	2	2	—	2	4
Sweets and Tobacco	9	3	7	—	—	3
General Provisions	50	27	47	7	15	25
Public Houses	48	45	51	5	1	3
Drapers	4	1	5	—	1	—
Garages and Cycles	15	20	2	5	2	4
Hairdresser	1	—	1	—	—	—
Post Offices	14	9	13	—	—	5
Shoe Repairs	1	1	—	—	—	—
	167	122	135	22	28	63

Closing Hours :

(a) *Early Closing Day*

The Council has not made an order fixing an early closing day and the number of Shops closed half days (by 1 p.m.) was as follows :—

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
5	22	29	3	—	20

(d) *General Closing Hours*

The General Closing Hours specified in the Shops Act, 1950 (Section 2) have not been varied by an order made by the Council.

No contraventions of note were found during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Of applications received for licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, to station and use vans as dwellings, 94 were granted, these being subject to various conditions as to siting, sanitary facilities, etc., and all were granted for a twelve months' period or less. Nineteen of these vans left the district before the end of the year. Six other applications were received but refused.

The licensed vans were fairly well scattered over the Council's area. No site licences have been granted.

FOOD INSPECTION

Particulars of food inspected during the year :

MEAT—CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	59	96	3011	Approx. 800	4	12
Number inspected	59	96	3011	153	4	12
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	24	67	23	3	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	40.7	69.8	0.76	1.9	25.0	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	15	22	9	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	4	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	25.4	18.75	0.29	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Most of the above cattle were killed and examined at a Casualty Slaughterhouse in the area, which is the reason for the high percentage of meat condemned. Most of the work of meat inspection is performed carried out outside normal office hours.

Weight of Meat condemned due to :—

(a) Tuberculosis	18,830 lbs.
(b) Other Diseases or conditions	45,460 lbs.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned	64,290 lbs.
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Five slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard were licensed by this Council during the year. Twenty-three men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Some of the condemned food is disposed of at a Waste Food Boiling Plant in the area and the remainder goes untreated to cat and dog meat shops. Though checks are frequently made as to the satisfactory disposal of condemned food at the receiving points, it is contended that control is altogether inadequate and that compulsory sterilization or destruction of unfit meat is an essential public health measure.

Food Preparing Premises and Food Shops

Food premises of the various types in the area were as under :—

Butchers	.....	.....	8
Catering Establishments	.....	13	
Fruit and Vegetables	.....	3	
Sweets and Confectioners	.....	9	
General Provisions	.....	50	
Public Houses	.....	48	
		<hr/>	
		131	
		<hr/>	

Routine inspections of food premises for the specific purpose of ensuring compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56, did not commence until early 1957.

Byelaws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, are in operation in the area of the Council.

There were only two premises in the area manufacturing prepared meats and two premises in which ice-cream was manufactured. They—together with 41 shops from which ice-cream is sold—one registered by the Council in conformity with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Thirty inspections were made of registered premises which were satisfactory.

Samples of ice-cream were taken at regular intervals during the “ season ” with results as follows :—

<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>		Grade			
		1	2	3	4
		<hr/>			
Six samples taken from the two manu- facturers in Rural District	.....	5	1	—	—

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggest that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The table following gives particulars of the registrations and licences granted by the Council :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

No. of Distributors of Milk with Dairies in Stafford R.D.C. area	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
No. of Distributors having Dairies outside R.D.C. area	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—					
No. Licensed to sell (a)	Tuberculin Tested Milk				37
(b)	Pasteurised Milk				32
(c)	Sterilised Milk				22

Quite a number of farmers retail their own Tuberculin Tested milk through their Producers' Licence granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and these are additional to the figures above.

Milk Sampling.—Routine “ Street ” samples taken in the rural district during the year by County Council sampling officers resulted as follows :—

	Bacteriological Examinations			Examinations for Tuberculosis		
	No. Samples Taken	No. Passing	No. Failing	No. Samples Taken	No. Negative	No. Positive
Distributors (Mostly Heat-treated Milk)	268	254	14	19	19	—
Farmer-Retailers (all Raw Milk)	46	39	7	36	36	—

A. THOMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

G. M. LAWTON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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